(c) whether Government is aware that resentment among common people, who are out of the ambit of air conditioning system, is increasing gradually; and

(d) if so, how Government proposes to.control this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per Refrigeration Air-conditioning Manufacturers Association (RAMA), the total population of room air conditioners is estimated to be approximately 10 million.

(b) The fossil fuel burnt, if any, to produce electricity for running the air conditioners only play an indirect role in affecting the atmosphere. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has initiated the Standards and Labeling Programme in order to enhance energy efficiency of the air conditioners.

(c) and (d) India is subject to large degree of climate variability. As per studies conducted by India Meteorological Department (MD) annual mean temperature for the country as a whole has risen by 0.52°C over the period. India has released the National Action Plan on Climate Change to evolve a strategy that aims at adapting to climate change and enhancing the ecological sustainability of our development path.

Coal mining in reserved forests

2436.SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating a new formula for coal mining in reserved forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such action would adversely affect the forest cover; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such action and the steps to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The coal is extracted form the Coal Bearing Areas irrespective of reserve/protected forests, degraded forest or non-forest lands as per the requirement of the nation and economic viability of extraction. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required for mining of coal in the forest areas under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. So far, 50,818 ha of forest land including reserve forest has been diverted for coal mining in the country. A State-wise list of such diversions is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes is permitted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 after stipulating mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation to reduce the adverse impact of the mining and other developmental activities on environment and ecology of the area.

Statement

State-wise approval accorded for coal mining under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Name of State/UT	Number of Cases approved	Total Land Diverted (in ha)
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	43	12709.62
Arunachal Pradesh	2	43.57
Assam	0	0.00
Bihar	0	0.00
Chandigarh	0	0.00
Chhattisgarh	49	12579.12
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00
Daman & Diu	0	0.00
Delhi	0	0.00
Goa	0	0.00
Gujarat	0	0.00
Haryana	0	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.00
Jharkhand	57	7545.33
Karnataka	0	0.00
Kerala	0	0.00
Lakshdeep	0	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	60	10980.37
Maharashtra	13	1815.09
Manipur	0	0.00
Meghalaya	0	0.00
Mizoram	0	0.00
Nagaland	0	0.00
Orissa	23	2899.99
Pondicherry	0	0.00

1	2	3
Punjab	0	0.00
Rajasthan	0	0.00
Sikkim	0	0.00
Tamil Nadu	0	0.00
Tripura	0	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	4	1984.83
Uttaranchal	0	0.00
West Bengal	3	260.03
TOTAL :	254	50817.949

Cleaning Delhi's environment

2437.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come up with a blue print to solve Delhi's pollution woes before the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to clear air pollution and river pollution of Yamuna and plan to clean environment in the capital before 2010 games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality in Delhi with the help of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). At present, there are 09 manual and 06 continuous stations for monitoring ambient air in Delhi. Similarly, river Yamuna is monitored by the CPCB at 05 locations. The data is compiled, processed and analyzed leading to pollution control measures and other actions by concerned agencies.

A total of 11 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been commissioned and 03 CETPs are under construction to treat industrial effluent in Delhi.

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is being used as fuel for public road transport in Delhi. Metro network is being expanded in view of the Commonwealth Games-2010. Two natural gas based thermal power plants of 1708 MW are under installation. After commissioning of these two plants, Indra Prastha. Thermal Power Plant (coal based) would be decommissioned before Commonwealth Games 2010. More stringent emission norms for particelate matter have been prescribed for remaining coal based power plants in Delhi.

Municipal solid waste to the tune of 3200 tonnes per day is planned to be processed to produce biogas/ refuse driven fuel. Moreover, burning of leaves and plastic has been prohibited in Delhi.